

THE DESERET FARMER (THAT BIG FARM PAPER.)

Combined With "Rocky Mountain Farming."

Established 1904.

Official Organ of the
Utah State Poultry Association.
Utah Horticultural Society.
Utah State Dairymen's Association.
Utah State Bee Keepers' Association.
Bear River Valley Farmers' Protective and Commercial Association.
Utah Arid Farming Association.

Issued every Saturday by the Deseret Farmer Pub. Co., Salt Lake Security & Trust Building, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered as second class matter Dec. 27, 1905, at the Postoffice at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Subscription price \$1.00 per year
(Strictly in Advance.)

Discontinuances.

The publishers must be notified in writing, at time of expiration, when discontinuance of subscription is desired, and all arrears must be paid.

Advertising rates made known upon application. The right is reserved to reject questionable advertising.

All communications and remittances should be addressed to "The Deseret Farmer," Salt Lake Security & Trust Building, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Lewis A. Merrill Editor
P. G. Peterson Asst. Editor
J. H. Harper Business Mgr.

Salt Lake City, Utah,
Saturday, August 22, 1908.

A GENERAL REVIEW OF CROP CONDITIONS.

United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Statistics,
Washington, D. C.

On August 1, crop conditions in the United States were in the aggregate somewhat better (2 per cent) than a year ago, but slightly (1 per cent) below a ten-year average condition on that date. Of the crops that are above the average may be mentioned winter wheat, hay, cotton and tobacco. Corn, barley, rye, buckwheat, apples and flax are slightly below the average, potatoes above 5 per cent below, and oats nearly 10 per cent below the average.

The conditions vary, however, in the different sections of the United States.

In the North Atlantic States general conditions are slightly better (1 per cent) than a year ago, and slightly below (2 per cent) the ten-year

average condition on August 1. Corn, wheat and apples are slightly to moderately above the average condition, while hay, potatoes, oats, rye, buckwheat and barley are below; the deficiency in condition of potatoes is about 10 per cent, and of hay about 4 per cent.

In the North Central States which are East of the Mississippi River, general crop conditions are about 1 per cent below a year ago and about 4 per cent below the average. Corn is about 7 per cent below, oats 18 per cent below, potatoes 4 per cent below, apples 20 per cent below, and tobacco 6 per cent below the average. Hay is good, being about 10 per cent above the average; wheat, barley, rye and grapes are slightly above, and peaches are about 50 per cent above the average.

In the North Central States west of the Mississippi River, crop conditions in the aggregate are practically the same as the ten-year average, and nearly 3 per cent better than a year ago. Hay alone of the important crops is materially above (14 per cent) the average; rye is slightly better and peaches about 40 per cent better than the average. Practically all the other important crops show a more or less lower condition than the average, corn being about 2 per cent, wheat 2 to 3 per cent, oats 6 per cent, flax 2 per cent, barley 3 per cent, and apples 20 per cent, respectively, below. The condition of potatoes is about the average.

In the South Atlantic States crop conditions are favorable, being about 4 per cent better than a year ago and nearly 5 per cent above the average. Rice and potatoes are the only ones of the important crops which are below their ten-year averages. The relative betterment of the other important crops above their average is, cotton 5 per cent, corn 3 per cent, hay 10 per cent, wheat 4 per cent, tobacco 6 per cent, sweet potatoes nearly 1 per cent, apples 25 per cent, peaches 40 per cent, and oats 4 per cent.

In the South Central States, also, conditions are favorable, being about 8 per cent better than a year ago, and 2 per cent better than the average. Cotton, the most important crop, has the same condition as the ten-year average. Corn is 3 per cent above the average, hay 8 per cent, wheat 6 per cent, tobacco 5 per cent, sweet

potatoes, oats and rice, each 4 per cent, and peaches 10 per cent, respectively, above their average condition. Apples are 12 per cent below, and potatoes, sorghum, and sugar cane are each slightly below the average condition.

In the far Western States, conditions are not so favorable, being about 5 per cent below a year ago, and nearly 5 per cent below the ten-year average condition. Nearly all the important crops are below the average. Peaches, however, are about 15 per cent better, and grapes slightly better. The approximate extent of deficiency in the condition of other crops is, hay, 8 per cent; wheat, 6 per cent; barley, 8 per cent; oats, 4 per cent; potatoes, 5 per cent; and apples, 1 per cent.

C. C. CLARK,

Acting Chief of Bureau.

FOR SALE OR LEASE.—Four hundred and sixty acres of land in Emery County, Utah—Good grazing land, partly fenced. Fair house and sheds. Address

UTAH IMPLEMENT-VEHICLE COMPANY,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

LARGE DEMAND FOR WILLOW BASKETS.

The fact that a Chicago merchant is advertising in German trade papers for a million willow clothes baskets is pointed to by experts on willow culture in this country as evidence of our neglect of a profitable industry.

Climate and soil are as favorable for willow culture in this country as in Germany or anywhere else, and the market for willow of the better grades is the best in the world. Generally speaking, land that will grow wheat will grow willows. Their cultivation is not difficult, and profits are usually good. But up to the present time Americans have not taken hold of the matter in earnest, though both interest and production have been on the increase of recent years as a result of the efforts made by the Department of Agriculture to inform the public of the opening which willow growing offers.

The Germans handle the business well. They have industrial schools where basket weaving is taught. Many of these schools grow their own willow rods, cut them, and peel and prepare them for use. To the mutual advantage of both pupils and proprietors, arrangements are made

to allow pupils to work part of the time in the "holts," as the willow fields are called, belonging to the schools, and in that way earn enough to pay their tuition and board. They then become familiar with all parts of the business, and when they graduate they are competent to take places as overseers of willow farms or foremen in wicker ware factories. The schools profit by getting much of their work done without paying cash for it.

American willow growers and manufacturers of willow ware must meet that competition; but those who have investigated conditions here and abroad feel confident that the American has advantages which will enable him to compete successfully if he takes up the business with characteristic American energy.

There are more than 160 manufacturers of willow ware in the United States. One-tenth of them grow their own willows, and about an equal number grow part of their stock. More than a dozen varieties are cultivated in this country, in seventeen states, and many manufacturers assert that the home grown rods are equal or even superior to the imported. Good holts pay a profit the first year, though the profits of later years are much greater. The average price of unpeeled rods last year was about one and a quarter cents a pound, and of peeled rods about seven cents. A well managed willow holt should average twenty-five hundred pounds of rods to the acre yearly, and the cost of growing and harvesting the crop is comparatively low. It is a crop which requires comparatively little labor, so that the small grower, if able-bodied, can be pretty independent in the matter of hired help.

Instructions for the growing of basket willows are sent out by the Forest Service, upon request, together with a statement of the returns to be expected. The Service is devoting special attention to testing every known variety of basket willow in order to find the best varieties for home growers. In the early spring time cuttings from all approved basket willows are sent gratis to applicants who desire to establish willow holts.

The "Deseret Farmer" needs the support and encouragement of every farmer—every person interested in agricultural pursuits—in this intermountain country. Send us a dollar! Let us send you the paper a year!